

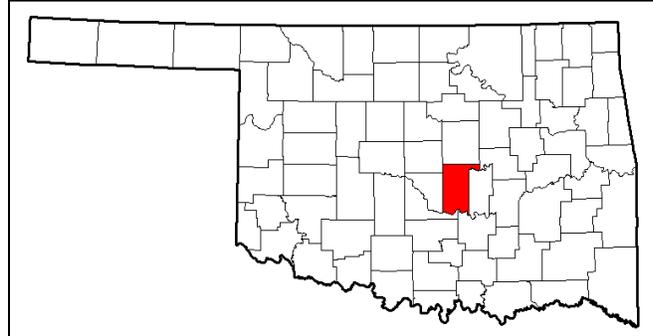
**CHAPTER ONE
SECTION 1.2
COMMUNITY PROFILES AND GOVERNMENT**

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COMMUNITY PROFILES

POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

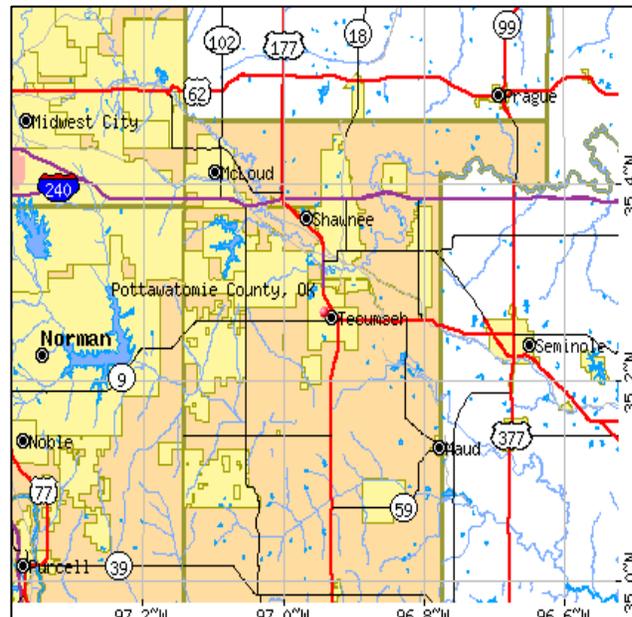
Bordered by Lincoln County to the north, Okfuskee and Seminole counties to the east, Pontotoc and McClain counties to the south, and Cleveland and Oklahoma counties to the west. Pottawatomie County is situated in east-central Oklahoma.



The county encompasses 793.26 square miles of total land and water area and is drained by the North Canadian, Canadian, and Little rivers. Most of the county lies in the Sandstone Hills physiographic region. At the turn of the twenty-first century incorporated towns included Asher, Bethel Acres, Brooksville, Earlsboro, Johnson, Macomb, Maud, McLoud, Pink, St. Louis, Shawnee (county seat), Tecumseh, Tribbey, and Wanette.

HISTORY OF POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY:

During the 1820s and 1830s several explorers made their way through the area, including Stephen H. Long, Washington Irving, and the Leavenworth-Dodge Expedition of 1834. Pottawatomie County was carved out of land originally given to the Creek and Seminole. When the Five Civilized Tribes were forced to cede their lands after the Civil War, the Iowa, Sac and Fox, Absentee Shawnee, Citizen Band Potawatomi, and Kickapoo received lands in present Pottawatomie County.





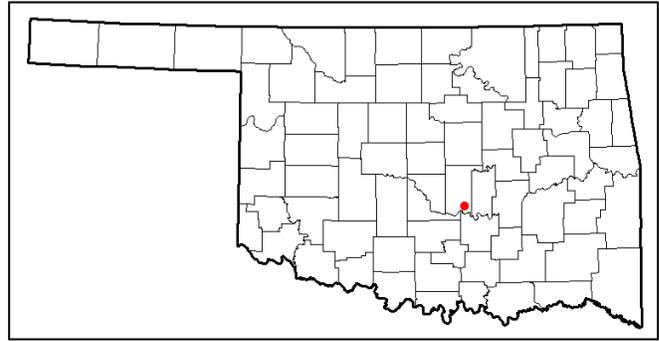
In the nineteenth century this area was crossed east and west by the northern branch of the California Road and north and south by the West Shawnee Cattle Trail.

White settlement began in earnest with the land run on September 22, 1891. The run was organized after all the tribes, except the Kickapoo that had settled in the area, agreed to land allotment. The run for land in County B (Pottawatomie County) occurred at the same time as the run in County A (Lincoln County) to the north. The run for Tecumseh, the designated county seat of Pottawatomie County, was held a day later, because the site had not yet been platted. When the Kickapoo gave up their land rights in 1895, the northwestern portion of the county was added in the last land run in Oklahoma. In 1892 voters overwhelmingly adopted Pottawatomie as the county name in honor of the Potawatomi.

Although Tecumseh, with its central location in the county, was established as the county seat, Shawnee vied for the designation on several occasions. The Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad ran its line through Shawnee in 1895 and located its servicing facilities in the city in 1896. The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway built a line through Shawnee in the early twentieth century and established a maintenance shop in the city. Consequently, Shawnee grew more rapidly than Tecumseh. Tecumseh built a courthouse and jail in 1897, but that did not assure the city of retaining the county seat. After Tecumseh thwarted Shawnee's aspirations for moving the county government in 1909 and 1911 elections, Shawnee prevailed in a 1930 vote. Shawnee had even greater aspirations. The citizens hoped Shawnee would become the state capital, and they built a governor's mansion. However, Shawnee finished a distant third in the 1919 vote to relocate the capital.

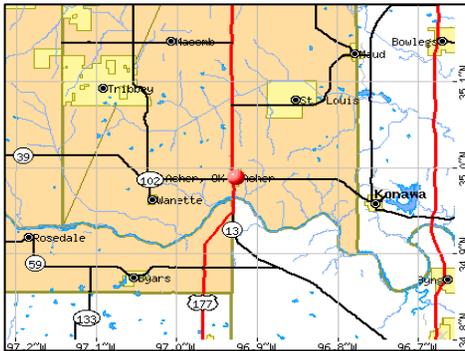
TWN OF ASHER

Located near the "South" Canadian River in southern Pottawatomie County, Asher is approximately twenty-three miles south of Shawnee on U.S. Highway 177 and the intersection of State Highway 39. In 1877 the Sacred Heart Mission (listed in the National Register of Historic Places, NR 83002125) was established near present Asher.



HISTORY OF ASHER:

The Asher post office was established on November 26, 1901, after postmaster George A. McCurry moved his store and the post office from Avoca two miles south to Asher.



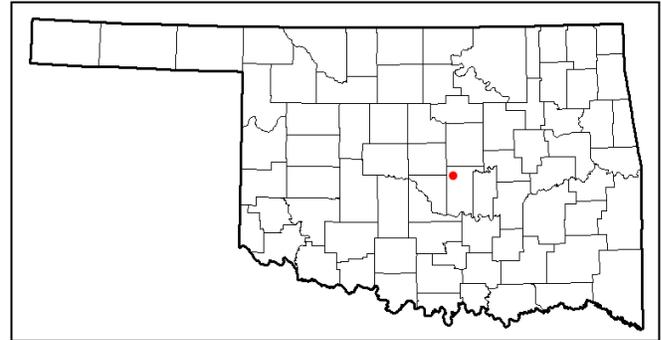
On October 30, 1901 a group of pioneers from other states opened the town of Asher naming it after the individual who gave the land for the town. In 1902 the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad (leased by the Chicago, Rock Island and Pacific Railway in 1904) built a line between Tecumseh and Asher.

Agriculture and oil played an important role in Asher's economic base until 1950. During its early days Asher had two cotton gins, several banks, a saw mill, cattle shipping pen, and a weekly newspaper. The "oil boom" days of the 1920s and 1930s brought prosperity to the area. Oil was produced near Asher beginning in 1929.

As in many small towns, the school is the center of many community activities. At the turn of the twenty- first century the town had two convenience stores, two restaurants, and three churches. As a "bedroom community", Asher had many citizens who commuted to work in Ada, Shawnee, and Oklahoma City.

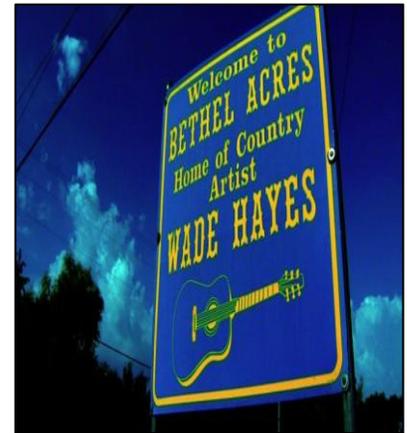
TOWN OF BETHEL ACRES

Located in northwestern Pottawatomie County, Bethel Acres is situated approximately four miles south of Interstate 40 and four miles west of Shawnee and U.S. Highway 177/State Highway 3W.



HISTORY OF BETHEL ACRES:

The area was opened to non-Indian settlers during the Sac and Fox land opening on September 22, 1891. Pioneers who staked claims in present Bethel Acres soon established Bethel school district. Supposedly, classes were held in a brush arbor until a wood-frame school building was located at the corner of Clear Pond and Bethel roads. On April 24, 1962, twenty-six of the thirty-three eligible voters voted to incorporate Bethel

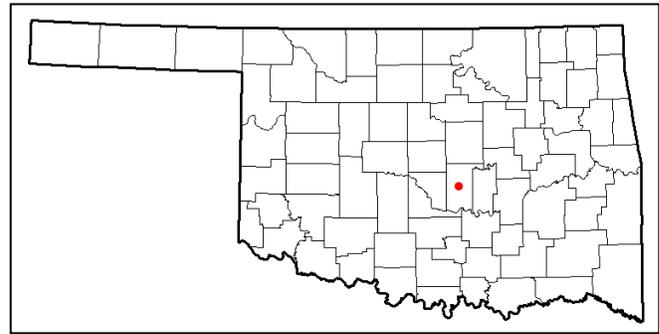


Acres, an area of four and one-half square miles. Local citizens decided to incorporate because they feared that Shawnee, Tecumseh, or Oklahoma City would annex them. Bethel Acres residents wanted to retain their rural life style, unrestricted by city ordinances that would prohibit livestock.

In October of 1978, residents had a newly constructed community building and fire station that housed six fire trucks. By 1986 the area had its own water system and water tower. In 2003 citizens passed a bond issue to build a new kindergarten and first grade building. At the turn of the twenty-first century 96.6 percent of the employed commuted to jobs in Shawnee, Tecumseh, and Oklahoma City. Bethel Acres is home to Country Music artist Wade Hayes.

TOWN OF BROOKSVILLE

One of more than fifty All-Black towns of Oklahoma, Brooksville is one of only thirteen still existing at the beginning of the twenty-first century. Located in Pottawatomie County four miles



southwest of Tecumseh, Brooksville was

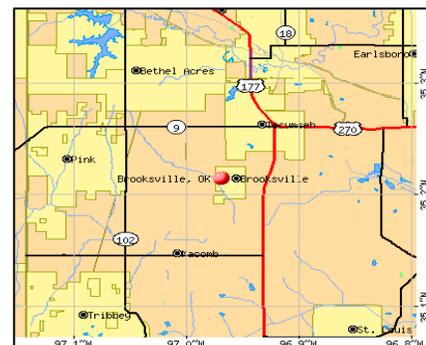
established in 1903. Originally the town was named Sewell, after a white doctor who owned much of the surrounding land and attended the residents. In 1912 the name changed to Brooksville in honor of the first African American in the area.

HISTORY OF BROOKSVILLE:



W. M. Brooks became the first postmaster. In 1906 St. John's Baptist Church was organized. Soon afterward, the congregation built a church that still exists. The Pastor also promoted the town throughout the South, urging African Americans to settle in Brooksville. Brooksville had a Santa Fe Railroad station, three hotels, two doctors, and two mills.

In 1924, with the aid of the Rosenwald Fund, a new school was built. Banneker School, was a rock building of four large rooms, a three-hundred-seat auditorium, a small library, and a well-equipped domestic science room. After a fire, the original building was replaced by a wooden one that served students until the school closed in 1968. The building then became a community center for the town and stands next to the new City Hall. A declining cotton market and the Great Depression made life difficult in Brooksville, as in many Oklahoma communities. Most of the residents departed, but the town survived.

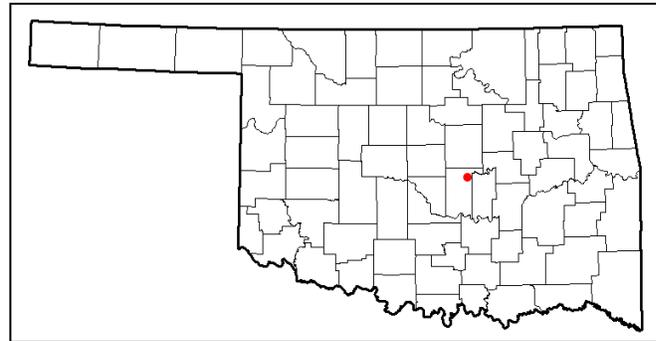


TOWN OF EARLSBORO

Located in Pottawatomie County, Earlsboro is situated at the intersection of U.S. Highway 270 and State Highway 9A.

HISTORY OF EARLSBORO:

Earlsboro is named for James Earls, a local African American barber who had been an orderly for Confederate Gen. Joseph "Joe" Wheeler. The town plat identified the town's name as Earlsborough. It was changed to Earlsboro when the post office opened on June 12, 1895. In 1891 the Choctaw Coal and Railway (later the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad) extended its line west from the Seminole Nation, and the town was formed in Oklahoma Territory, one half mile from Indian Territory. The town has had two significant booms. Liquor was illegal in Indian Territory, whisky fueled Earlsboro's first boom.



The town's first three businesses were saloons, and its close proximity to Indian Territory attracted many customers and merchants. Earlsboro became known as "A wild whisky town, where murders and street fights were common". Despite its violent nature, Earlsboro prospered. The citizens established a blacksmith shop, cotton gins, a school district, and churches. By 1905 approximately 90 percent of the merchants profited from

liquor sales. After 1907 statehood and prohibition, Earlsboro's population and economy declined. Lacking profits from whisky, consumers and merchants soon left. However, the agricultural settlers, who supported the cotton gins and new businesses, kept the town alive. Local and area newspapers kept citizens informed.

On March 1, 1926, black gold was struck at 3,557 feet, resulting in a well that produced daily two hundred barrels. Word of the strike spread quickly, and oil derricks soon dotted the landscape. Within two months Earlsboro's population soared to an estimated ten thousand. Twenty-five-foot lots sold for as high as ten thousand dollars. The town sported a one-hundred-thousand-dollar hotel "admired as Oklahoma's fanciest," a grand theater boasting one thousand seats, twenty-three lumber yards, forty-one gasoline stations, twenty-four grocery stores, and many other businesses.



Earlsboro experienced the infamy of Charles A. "Pretty Boy" Floyd, who robbed the town's bank and occasionally visited because his partner George Birdwell's mother lived there.



Bankruptcy finalized Earlsboro's legacy. In 1929 citizens passed a \$225,000 bond issue for a water and sewer works. Three years later prosperity ended when oil production declined. Leaving behind a glorious era and a mountain of debt, speculators and settlers moved. Families deserted their homes, and the hotel met its demise. Despite the fact that the bond debt could not be paid twenty years later,

Earlsboro remained a productive rural community. Supported by a strong rural water district and the main offices of the Pottawatomie Telephone Company, Earlsboro's economic health improved.

TOWN OF JOHNSON

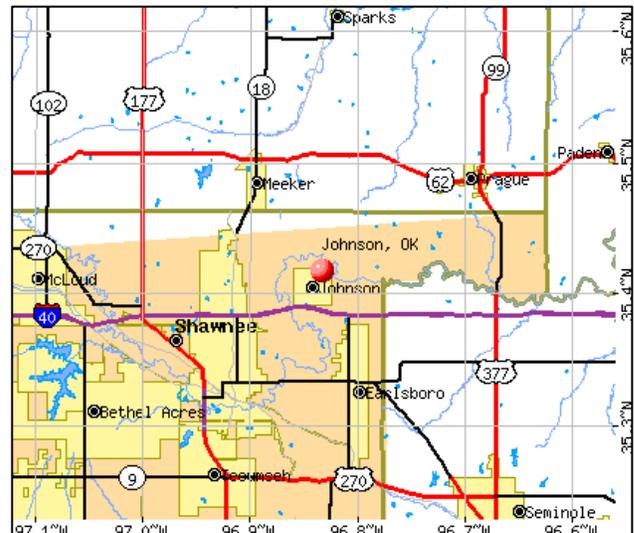
Located in north-central Pottawatomie County, Johnson is situated one mile north of Interstate 40 on County Roads E1110/N3460.



HISTORY OF JOHNSON:

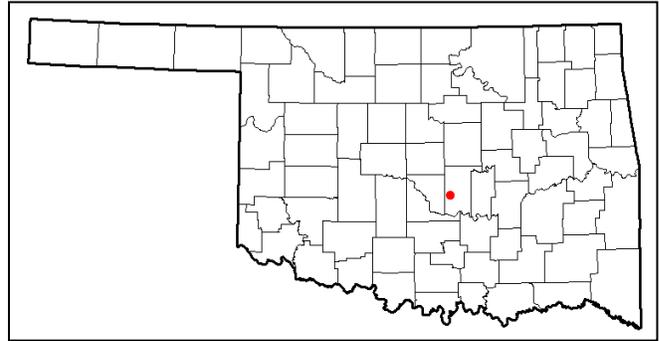
The area was opened to non-Indian settlers during the Sac and Fox land opening on September 22, 1891. It has remained sparsely populated through the years. In 1982 residents decided to incorporate to stop Shawnee's plans to establish a landfill near the Johnson community. On May 11, 1982, citizens voted 77 to 40 in favor of incorporation.

Ninety-nine percent of those employed commute to Shawnee, Tecumseh, Oklahoma City, and Seminole.



TOWN OF MACOMB

Located in Pottawatomie County, Macomb is ten miles southwest of Tecumseh on State Highway 59B, four and one-half miles west of U.S. Highway 177.



HISTORY OF MACOMB:

The community grew when the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway survey bypassed Burnett, and Burnett entrepreneurs moved to Macomb. On May 29, 1903, the post office, originally designated as McComb, opened. The town's name was changed to Macomb on July 16, 1915, to reflect the proper spelling of its namesake, a Santa Fe railroad engineer whose last name was Macomb.

In 1904 Business establishments included five general stores, several drug stores, hardware and grocery stores, meat markets, two cotton gins and grist mills, two saloons, a bank, furniture and coffin store, hotel and restaurant, blacksmith, and millinery shop. It was a service center for the surrounding agricultural area.



In 1904 the first school, a four-room building, housed eighty-eight pupils. The school grew when the early-day Lone Star and Mount Zion schools closed. In the 1940s and 1950s Prairie View, Anderson, and Eagle schools consolidated with Macomb. Fraternal organizations such as the Masonic order, the IOOF (Odd Fellows), and the Woodman of the World were established during the early twentieth century.

Almost as quickly as the town had grown and prospered on the prairies, it began to decline in the 1930s. Drought brought an end to the large cotton crops once raised in the area. At the turn of the twenty-first century, Macomb had one commercial business, a post office, fire station, Assembly of God Church, community center, Masonic lodge and school.

CITY OF MAUD

Maud, birthplace of country music singer Wanda Jackson, is located at the intersection of State Highways 59 and 9A, in Pottawatomie County.



HISTORY OF MAUD:

With its western half of the town located in Pottawatomie County and its eastern half in Seminole County, the town was established along the dividing line between Oklahoma and Indian territories. In 1890 a barbed-wire fence was built from the North Canadian River to the Canadian River



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through the middle of town on the street now known as Broadway to keep American Indians out of Oklahoma Territory.



On April 16, 1896, a post office was established and the town named for a sister to the wives of the two owners of the first general store. A railroad depot built in 1903 serviced four passenger and eight freight trains daily on the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway (in 1923 the Oklahoma City, Ada and Atoka Railway). In a short time one general store, three dry good stores, two drug stores, one blacksmith, three cotton gins, and one funeral parlor were built. Maud was incorporated on July 21, 1905.

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In the early 1920s, due to the discovery of oil, Maud became a boomtown and its business district doubled. At the turn of the twenty-first century the Maud Historical Museum was located on East Main in the Maud drugstore. Maud was incorporated as a city in 1929.

CITY OF MCLOUD

McCloud is situated in the northwestern quarter of Pottawatomie County thirty miles east of Oklahoma City, at the intersection of U.S. Highway 270 and State Highway 102, three miles north of Interstate 40.



HISTORY OF MCLOUD:



Located on the North Canadian River, early-day McCloud was one of several towns known for manufacturing and selling whiskey to whites and American Indians. When a flood destroyed the original site, the small group of businesses moved about a mile south to higher ground. The McCloud post office was established in June 1895, and the spelling was

changed to McCloud in October 1895.

By 1904 McCloud had five cotton gins and two brick factories. As an agricultural center, large quantities of produce, including fruit from local orchards, were shipped to outside markets by train.



In 1949 the city was recognized as the "Blackberry Capital of the World" when the Chamber of Commerce sent a crate of blackberries to Pres. Harry S. Truman. McCloud continues to celebrate an annual Blackberry Festival in July.

Over the years the town has served as a commercial center for nearby farm families. By the turn of the twenty-first century McCloud had become a "bedroom" community, because many residents worked in surrounding towns.

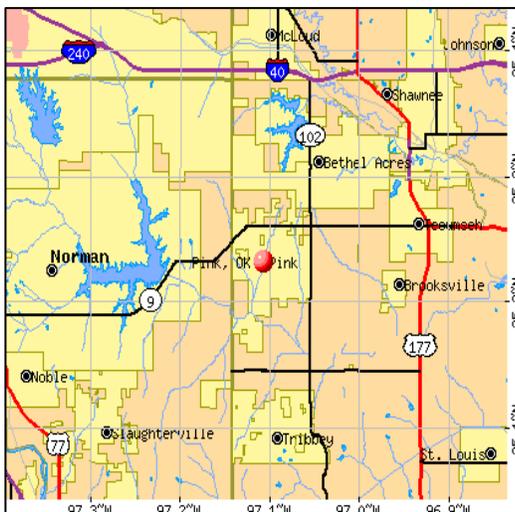
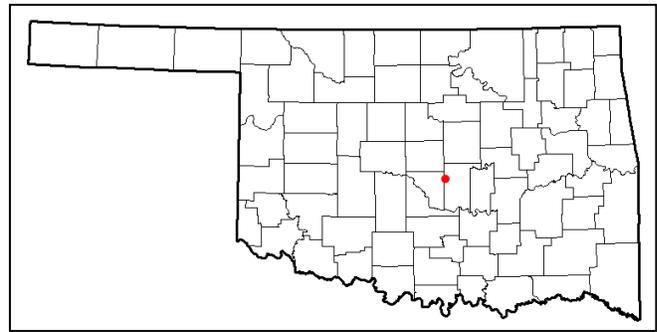


TOWN OF PINK

Located in western Pottawatomie County, the Town of Pink lies on State Highway 9, ten miles west of Tecumseh.

HISTORY OF PINK:

The town emerged sometime after the Iowa, Sac and Fox, Citizen Band Potawatomi, and Absentee Shawnee lands were opened on September 22, 1891. The Post Office Department designated a Pink post office in January 1894, but the named individual as postmaster declined his appointment, delaying the opening until February. Thomas M. McKittrick accepted the postmaster job, but the post office discontinued in January 1897. In 1901 it was reestablished, but again discontinued in February 1906, with the mail diverted to Tecumseh. The town may have received the name Pink to complement the town of Brown, which was nearby in the same township and range.



Throughout the town's history it has served the vicinity's agriculturists. In its infancy there was a gristmill and a general store. For much of the twentieth century a retail outlet has operated on State Highway 9. After the 1964 impoundment of Lake Thunderbird, a convenience store and gas station benefited from the increased traffic of outdoor enthusiasts. In the late 1960s Pink incorporated, and in 1977 the community completed a town hall and fire station. The majority of its residents

commuted to the Oklahoma City or Norman areas to work.

CITY OF SHAWNEE

The county seat of Pottawatomie County, Shawnee is located along the North Canadian River and six miles southeast of the intersection of U.S. Highway 177 and Interstate 40.



HISTORY OF SHAWNEE:

The Creek and Seminole area originally occupied the area that was designated as Pottawatomie County in 1892. After the Civil War those two nations ceded part of their land to the federal government, and the Sac and Fox, Citizen Band Potawatomi, Absentee Shawnee, and Kickapoo were removed to this region. On September 22, 1891, the area was opened to non-Indian settlers by a land run.

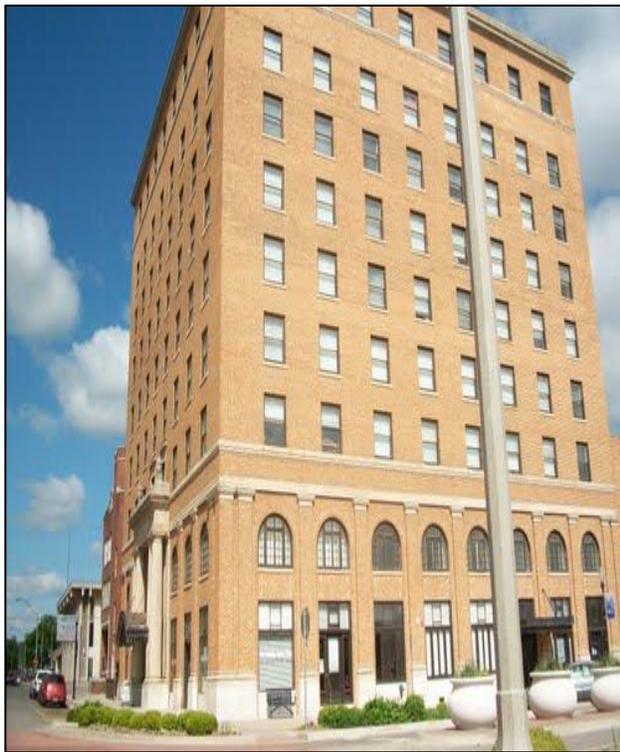


Among the thousands who made the run, four individuals crossed a line, later called Kickapoo Street, and each staked a quarter section in the proposed city of Brockway. Following an all-night discussion among early settlers who had their own suggestions for the town name, a compromise was reached to name the town Shawnee, after the American Indian tribe.

Soon after the run Shawnee's first main street was built and named Farrall Street; many city lots were sold, and by 1892 the population was estimated at 250. Several stores, two banks, two newspapers, two brickyards, seven cotton gins, three flour mills, and one livery stable dotted Farrall, Beard, and Broadway streets.

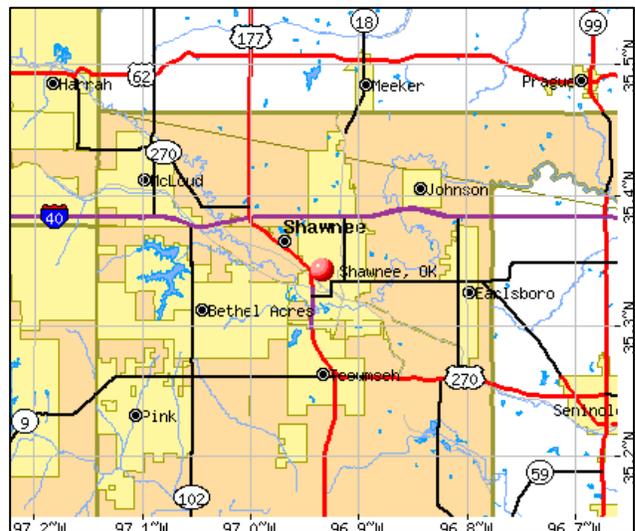


From the 1960s to the turn of the twenty-first century, Shawnee's economic base changed from agrarian to a commercial, industrial, and service economy. Several stores, two banks, two newspapers, two brickyards, seven cotton gins, three flour mills, and one livery stable



At the turn of the twenty-first century the Santa Fe Depot served as a museum for the Pottawatomie County Historical Society.

dotted Farrall, Beard, and Broadway streets. On July 4, 1895, after months of negotiation, the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railroad arrived at Kickapoo Street, which fostered rapid growth in the new town. In 1903-04 the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway and the Missouri, Kansas and Texas Railway extended rail service to Shawnee.



Early residents enjoyed baseball games, horse racing at the racetrack west of the city, and vaudeville and opera performances at the local establishments such as the Becker Theater.

Good times were frequent at Benson Park, located between Shawnee and Tecumseh and reached by an interurban railway. Families spent leisurely Sunday afternoons at the park, listening to performances at the amphitheater, riding the roller coaster, roller-skating, or swimming in the pool called "The Plunge."



Local leaders induced two higher-education institutions to locate in Shawnee. Oklahoma Baptist

University held its first class in 1911. Its initial building, Shawnee Hall, was a gift from the citizens. The Benedictine Order of the Roman Catholic Church moved its school from Sacred Heart to Shawnee in 1915 and renamed it St. Gregory's College (now St. Gregory's University).



As the city expanded, local industries and businesses grew. During a period of steady growth, several attempts were made to move the courthouse from Tecumseh to Shawnee. Finally, on December 19, 1930, citizens voted to move the county seat to Shawnee. The county courthouse in Shawnee was built with New Deal funding and opened on July 6, 1935. They maintained a home rule charter with council- manager form of government.

TOWN OF ST. LOUIS

St. Louis is located approximately four miles east of U.S. Highway 177 on State Highway 59 in southern Pottawatomie County.

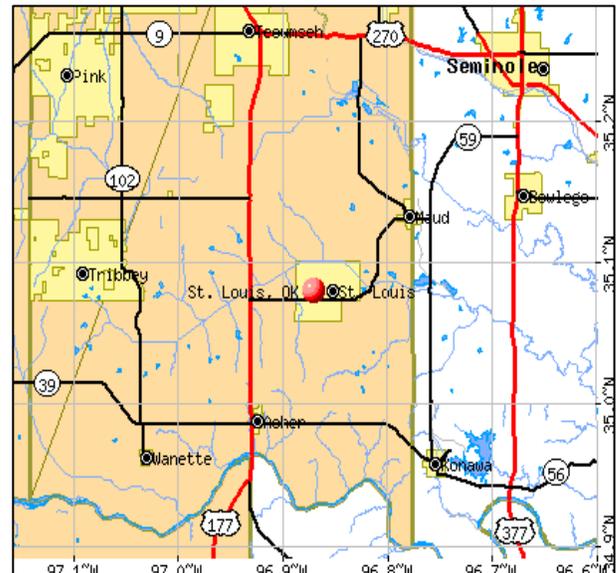


HISTORY OF ST. LOUIS:

Originally known as Simpsonville, the town began when after an early businessman who opened a cotton gin, added a gristmill around 1906, and soon thereafter opened the first general store. Later the town was called St. Louis when the local Unity School teacher, jokingly remarked to a passerby on his way to town that he was going to St. Louis.

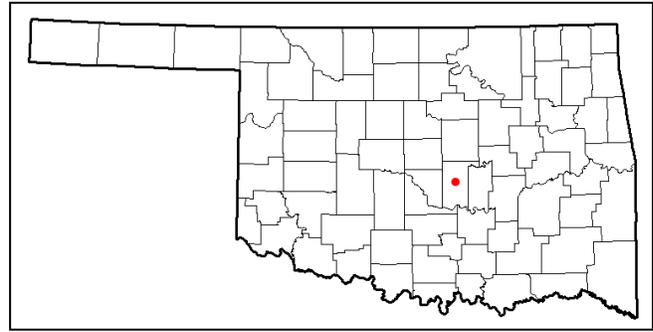
The town grew slowly. In 1902 a Primitive Baptist preacher, arrived from Polk County, Arkansas. He had 160 acres northeast of town and dealt in hides and cattle. In 1910 he opened a gristmill in town. Until around 1910, the nearest doctor came from Sacred Heart, the nearby Roman Catholic mission and school.

The town plat was filed on March 9, 1927. The post office was established in 1928, and the town was incorporated during the oil-boom days. With the influx of oil-field workers during the 1920s, schools met the demand of a tenfold increase of school children. To bring about better education the Unity, Collins, and Cloverdale schools were consolidated to form the St. Louis School District. The community's economy has been primarily based on raising cotton and corn and as an agricultural service center.



CITY OF TECUMSEH

Located in Pottawatomie County, Tecumseh is situated at the intersection of U.S. Highways 177 and 270 and State Highway 9.



HISTORY OF TECUMSEH:

Named after the famous Shawnee chief, the location was selected by a U.S. Army major sent from Fort Reno in the summer of 1891. The townsite contained 320 acres, twenty of which were allotted to the Quakers (Society of Friends). The western third of the area

was covered by large oak trees, and the eastern two-thirds was prairie.



On September 23, 1891, Tecumseh was opened for settlement as a result of the land run into the Sac and Fox/Iowa/Kickapoo/Shawnee/Potawatomie reservations, a day after the run, because surveyors had not completed their work. At noon, when soldiers fired

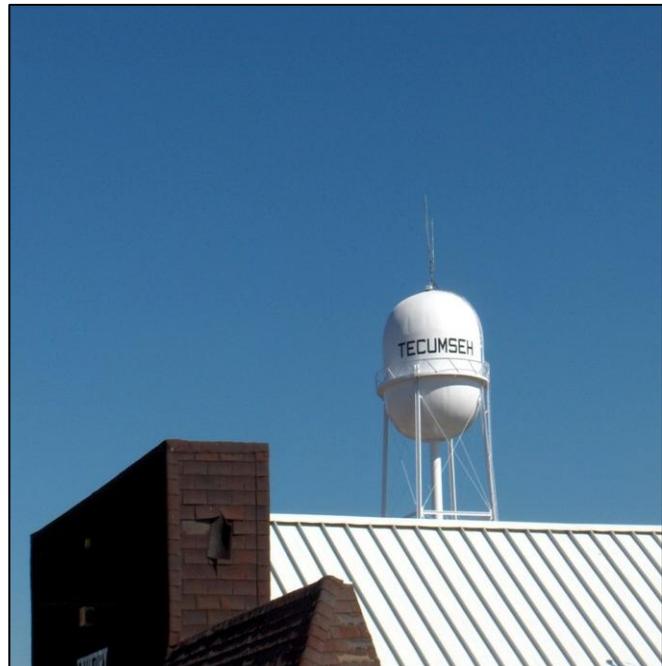
shots in the air on the perimeter of the townsite, approximately fifteen thousand individuals sought five thousands homesteads. Among the crowd were gamblers, promoters, and adventurers as well as men and women determined to shape a new community. The future town had been designated seat of County "B" on July 17, 1891, by the Department of the Interior. A post office was established on September 18, 1891.





Representatives of religious and fraternal bodies were present, and a Presbyterian minister held his first meeting on the northwest corner of the public square on Sunday following the run. Merchants immediately opened for business in tents. Small frame buildings replaced tents over the next year, and the frame buildings were replaced with brick structures in the early

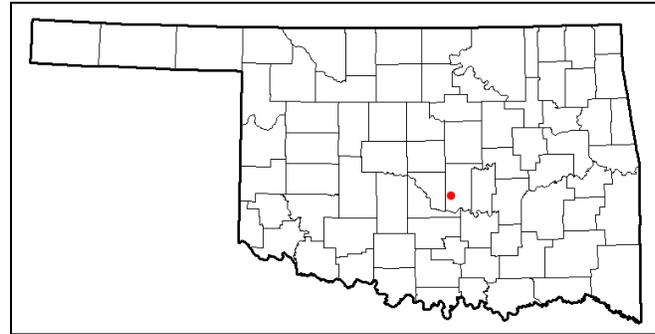
1900s. Thus the business district developed, and it remained basically the same, with many of the buildings still standing at the turn of the twenty-first century. Beginning in 1903 the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway served a surrounding agricultural region in which cotton was the main crop. Tecumseh served as the Pottawatomie County seat until Shawnee won the designation in a 1930 election.



In the 1920s cotton production declined due to depressed prices and boll weevil infestation. During the Great Depression many townspeople moved to rural areas in order to secure a subsistence living. The labor force was primarily engaged in public and private service occupations. Tecumseh maintained a home rule charter form of government.

TOWN OF TRIBBEY

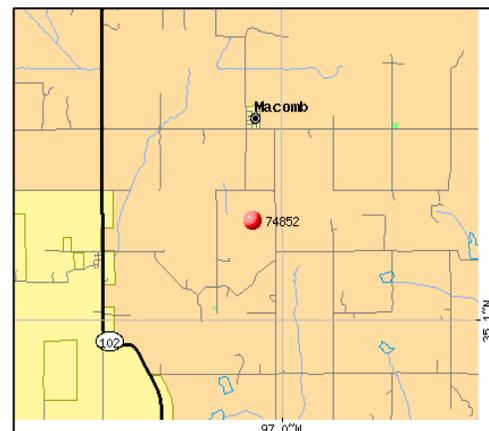
Tribbey is located ten miles south of the intersection of State Highways 9 and 102 in southern Pottawatomie County.



HISTORY OF TRIBBEY:

The town's namesake, Alpheus M. Tribbey, and his family came from Texas to Marietta, Indian Territory, in 1888. When the Iowa, Sac and Fox, Citizen Band Potawatomi, and Absentee Shawnee lands were opened on September 22, 1891, Tribbey staked a claim. He gave land to the Eastern Oklahoma Railway (later Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway) in 1903 and twenty-two acres for a town site, platted in 1904. He built a two-story building that served as his residence and as the Tribbey Hotel. The post office opened on February 4, 1905. A cotton gin and sawmill were established. The town soon bustled with two cotton gins, two blacksmith shops, a bank, several stores, and a livery.

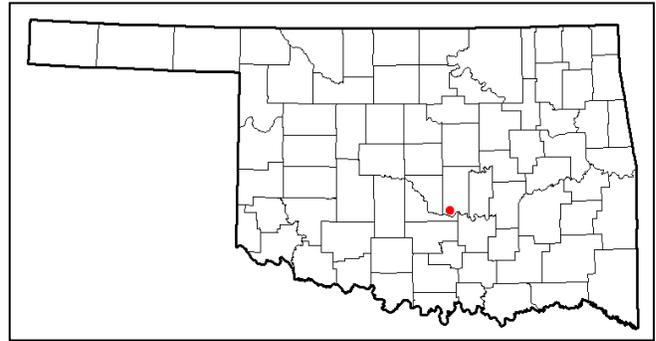
With cotton as the main crop, farmers also raised corn, potatoes, alfalfa, fruit, and cattle. Tribbey was the shipping center for cotton until the market declined due to lack of rain and boll weevil devastation during the early 1920s. In 1919 Service Pipeline built a pump station in Tribbey, employing approximately fourteen men as well as roughnecks and pipeline workers. In 1961 the pump station was replaced by an electronic system.



After the Great Depression Pres. Franklin Delano Roosevelt's New Deal programs provided employment to Tribbey citizens. During World War II residents commuted to the Oklahoma City area to work at defense jobs. Decline in population caused the railroad service to be discontinued in 1954. The postal service to be moved to Macomb in 1958. The school was annexed to Wanette in 1967.

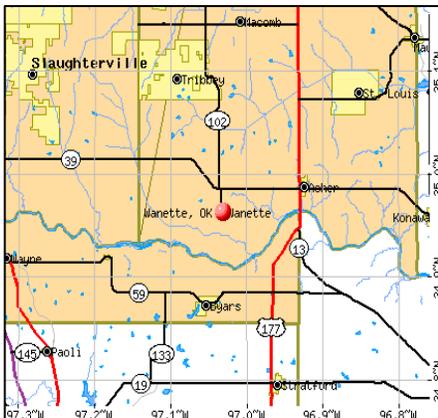
TOWN OF WANETTE

Located in Pottawatomie County, Wanette is approximately thirty miles south of Shawnee and one mile south of State Highway 39 on State Highway 102.



HISTORY OF WANETTE:

One of the first homes in the area, a two-story cabin about one and one-half miles from the present townsite was built in 1868. In 2003, the cabin still existed. In 1876 the Potawatomi gave some of their reservation lands to the Benedictine Order of the Roman Catholic Church, who established the Sacred Heart



Mission nearby. The town went through several name changes and moves before the name Wanette was established when the post office opened on March 19, 1894. During the territorial era, outlaws Belle Starr and Cole Younger frequented the area. In 1903 the town moved one mile north when the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway built a line from Newkirk to Pauls Valley.

In the early 1900s several newspapers competed for readership. Three cotton gins, a brick kiln, several wagon yards, a livery, and a harness shop were among the early establishments. Two banks existed before 1907 statehood. In 1907 initially cotton, and then oil, provided the bases for the local economy. In 1920, ten thousand bales of cotton were shipped from Wanette. During the 1930s the Wanette-Asher oil field boosted the economy. The local agricultural region also produced pecans, oats, corn, alfalfa, and hay. At the turn of the twenty-first century Wanette was an agricultural support center and a "bedroom" community for Moore, Norman, and Oklahoma City.

POPULATION

At 1907 statehood, Pottawatomie County had 43,272 residents. Numbers continued to increase from 43,595 reported in 1910 to 46,028 in 1920. As a result of the oil boom the county population hit its twentieth-century high point of 66,572 in 1930. After a steady decline to 41,486 in 1960 the population grew steadily for the remainder of the century. By 1980 and 1990 numbers had rebounded to 55,239 and 58,760, respectively. By 1980 and 1990 numbers had rebounded to 55,239 and 58,760, respectively. From 2000 to 2010, the Pottawatomie County population growth percentage was 6.0% from 65,521 people to 69,442 people.

Town of Asher : By 1907 statehood the population stood at 465. The population reached 653 residents in 1930. The census declined until 1980 when it peaked at 659. At the turn of the twenty-first century the town had 419 residents. The 2010 census figures for Asher indicated a population of 393. With 393 people, Asher is the 398th most populated city in the state of Oklahoma.

Town of Bethel Acres: In 1970 Bethel Acres had a population of 1,083. In 1980 and 1990 censuses indicated 2,314 and 2,505, respectively. Numbers rose to 2,735 in 2000 as more individuals desiring a rural setting moved into the vicinity. By the 2010 census the population had risen to 2,895 which ranked it as the 115th largest city in Oklahoma.

Town of Brooksville: At the beginning of the twenty-first century Brooksville was steadily increasing in population. By the 2010 census 63 people resided in Brooksville. It is the 683rd most populated town in the state of Oklahoma.

Town of Earlsboro: By 1905 the population reached an estimated 500. After 1907 though, the population had slipped to 387. Earlsboro's population peaked however at 1,950 in 1930. At the turn of the twenty-first century the population had increased from 535 in 1990

to 633 in 2000. In 2010 with a population of 628, Earlsboro was ranked the 308th most populated town in Oklahoma.

Town of Johnson: Had a population of 196 in 1990 and 223 in 2000. With 247 people (2010), Johnson is the 495th most populated town in the state of Oklahoma.

Town of Macomb: In 1904 Macomb had an estimated population of 350, however it began to decline in the 1930s. By the turn of the twenty-first century, only sixty-one residents lived in the town and by 2010 the population had dropped to 32. Macomb is ranked number 710 in the state.

City of Maud: By 1910 the population had reached 503. In the early 1920s Maud had an estimated population of ten thousand. By 1930 however, Maud's population dwindled to 4,326. At the turn of the twenty-first century the town had a population of 1,136. In 2010 the census showed Maud with a population of 1,048 making Maud the 231st most populated town in the state.

City of McLoud: In 1900 McLoud had a population of 498, and by 1907 statehood it had risen to 783. In both cases it was the third largest town in the county. By 2000 the population was 3,548. In the 2010 census report, McLoud had grown to 4,044.

Town of Pink: In 1970 Pink's population stood at 337 and by 1980 the population had climbed to 911. It continued to grow, reaching 1,020 in 1990. In 2000 the population was 1,165. By 2010 the population had escalated to 2,058 making Pink the 151st most populated city in the state of Oklahoma.

Town of St. Louis: In 1930's the population declined from 493 to 326 in 1940. By 1990 and 2000, the population was 181 and 206, respectively. With 158 people in 2010, St. Louis is ranked as the 560th most populated community in Oklahoma.

City of Shawnee: In 1892 the population was estimated at 250. The population grew from 350 in 1894 to 2,500 in 1896. By 1930 the population stood at 23,000. In the 2000 census Shawnee had grown to 28,692 residents and by 2010 there were 29,857 residents which ranks Shawnee as the 13th most populated city in Oklahoma. .

City of Tecumseh: At 1907 statehood the population stood at 1,621. The censuses for 1910 and 1920 reported 1,625 and 1,429, respectively. In 1930 Tecumseh had 2,419 inhabitants. That number declined to 2,042 in 1940. With 4,451 residents counted in 1970 the town's population increased each decade until it peaked at 6,098 at the turn of the twenty-first century. By the time the 2010 census report was taken, Tecumseh had grown to 6,457 residents making it the 62nd largest city in Oklahoma.

Town of Tribbey: Between 1900 and 1920 population increased from 200 to 500. At the turn of the twenty-first century Tribbey's population had dropped to 273. With 391 people, Tribbey is the 399th most populated city in the state of Oklahoma.

Town of Wanette: In 1907 the population stood at 739. In 1920, the population peaked at 783. At the turn of the twenty-first century Wanette had 402 residents. In 2010 with 350 citizens, Wanette holds the 419th most populated town ranking.

GOVERNMENT

Pottawatomie County government generally performs state mandated duties which include assessment of property, record keeping (e.g., property and vital statistics). Other major programs performed by the county are the maintenance of rural roads, administration of elections, county law enforcement/jail administration, judicial functions, and relief for the poor. Today counties are also rapidly moving into other public services such as undertaking programs relating to child welfare, consumer protection, economic development, employment training, planning and zoning, and water quality, to name a few.

Pottawatomie County, like most counties, considers construction/ maintaining county roads one of their primary programs.

Counties are a subdivision of state government. The powers it exercises are primarily delegated by the State as a quasi-municipal corporation.

Each County is divided into three districts, as equal in population as possible and numbered 1, 2, and 3 respectively. One Commissioner is elected from each district. District boundaries are set every 10 years following the federal census. Oklahoma County Commissioners are required to fulfill the needs of their District with taxpayer funds provided, each year, in a Highway Cash Account and a Highway Levy Account. A County Commissioner is a Constitutional Officer, who must fulfill his or her Constitutional and Statutory duties.

All of the county officials are elected to staggered four year terms except for the Election Board Secretary who is appointed by the local state senator. Counties are made up of the following elected officials:

- District 1, 2, and 3 County Commissioners
- County Clerk - Functions as the custodian of records for the county, acts as registrar of deeds, and acts as the county's purchasing agent.
- County Court Clerk - Maintains all proceedings of the Court of Record in the county.
- County Assessor - Have the duty and responsibility to determine the true worth of real and personal property for the purpose of taxation.
- County Treasurer - Acts as the tax collector and banker for the county.
- County Sheriff - Preserves the peace and protects life and property and suppress' all unlawful disturbances.
- District Attorney

Oklahoma Statutes Citationized

📁 Title 19. Counties and County Officers

📁 Chapter 1 - Status and Power of Counties

📄 Section 3 - County's Powers Exercised by Board of Commissioners - Certain Contracts Void by Individual Commissioner

Cite as: 19 O.S. §, 1 et Seq.

The powers of a county as a body politic and corporate shall be exercised by its board of county commissioners.

It is hereby declared to be contrary to law, and against public policy, for any individual county commissioner, or commissioners, when not acting as a board, to enter into any contract, or to attempt to enter into any contract, as to any of the following matters:

- (a) Any purchase of equipment, machinery, supplies or materials of any kind for any county or any commissioner's district, or districts, thereof;
- (b) Any contract or agreement relating to or for the leasing or rental of any equipment, machinery, supplies or materials for any county or any commissioner's district, or districts, thereof;
- (c) To do or transact any business relating to such county, or any commissioner's district, or districts thereof, or to make any contract or agreement of any kind relating to the business of such county, or any commissioner's district, or districts thereof;

And none of such acts or attempted contracts as above set forth, done or attempted to be done, by an individual county commissioner or commissioners, when not acting as a board, shall ever be subject to ratification by the board of county commissioners, but shall be illegal, unlawful and wholly void.

Provided that nothing herein shall be construed as prohibiting or preventing the chairman of the board of county commissioners from performing such duty or duties as he may be required by law to perform as chairman of such board, but only after the board, by a majority vote thereof, shall have authorized and directed such performance by said chairman.

MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENT

A **municipality** means the governing body of a municipality. A municipality is a general-purpose administrative subdivision, as opposed to a special-purpose district. In Oklahoma there are several forms of government within municipal government. The forms of government for each jurisdiction are identified following:

Under Oklahoma law, municipalities are divided into two categories: cities, defined as having more than 1,000 residents, and towns, with under 1,000 residents. Both have legislative, judicial, and public power within their boundaries, but cities can choose between a mayor- council, council-manager, or strong mayor form of government, while towns operate through an elected officer system.

TOWN DEFINITION: In Oklahoma, a town is the most common division of a county and is a municipality which has incorporated as a town in accordance with the laws of Oklahoma

CITY DEFINITION: In Oklahoma, a city is a highly autonomous incorporated area usually contained within a county. Some cities span multiple counties. Cities provide the same services as towns but operate under one of four possible government structures: aldermanic (weak mayor-council), council- manager, strong mayor-council, and home rule.

 **Oklahoma Statutes Citationized**
 **Title 11. Cities and Towns**
 **Chapter 1 - Oklahoma Municipal Code**
 **Article I - General Provisions and Definitions**
 **Section 1-102 - Definitions**
Cite as: 11 O.S. §, 1-102 et Seq.

As used in the Oklahoma Municipal Code:

1. *"Charter municipality" or "Municipality governed by charter" means any municipality which has adopted a charter in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and laws of Oklahoma and at the time of adoption of the charter had a population of two thousand (2,000) or more. Once a municipal charter has been adopted and approved, it becomes the organic law of the municipality in all matters pertaining to the local government of the municipality and prevails over state law on matters relating to purely municipal concerns;*
2. *"City" means a municipality which has incorporated as a city in accordance with the laws of this state;*
13. *"Town" means a municipality which has incorporated as a town in accordance with the laws of Oklahoma.*

 **Oklahoma Statutes Citationized**
 **Title 11. Cities and Towns**
 **Chapter 1 - Oklahoma Municipal Code**
 **Article XXII - General Powers of Municipalities**
 **Section 22-101 - Corporate Powers of Municipalities**
Cite as: 11 O.S. §, 22-101 et Seq.

All incorporated municipalities shall be bodies corporate and politic, and shall have the powers to:

1. Sue and be sued;
2. Purchase and hold real and personal property for the use of the municipality;

3. Sell and convey any real or personal property owned by the municipality and make orders respecting the same as may be conducive to the best interests of the municipality;
4. Make all contracts and do all other acts in relation to the property and affairs of the municipality, necessary to the good government of the municipality, and to the exercise of its corporate and administrative powers; and
5. Exercise such other powers as are or may be conferred by law.

STATUTORY TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES FORM OF GOVERNMENT

- 📁 Oklahoma Statutes Citationized
 - 📁 Title 11. Cities and Towns
 - 📁 Chapter 1 - Oklahoma Municipal Code
 - 📁 Article XII - Statutory Town Board of Trustees Form of Government
 - 📄 Section 12-102 - Governing Body - Board of Trustees

Cite as: 11 O.S. §, 12-102 et Seq.

The town board of trustees shall consist of either three (3) or five (5) trustees who shall be nominated from wards or at large and elected at large. The governing body may submit to the voters the question of whether the town board shall consist of either three (3) or five (5) trustees. If approved, the election of trustees to fill any new positions shall take place at the time set by the town board but no later than the next regular municipal election. The terms of the new trustees shall be staggered as provided for in Sections 16-205 and 16-206 of this title.

STATUTORY TOWN BOARD OF TRUSTEES GOVERNMENTS IN POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

- Town of Asher
- Town of Bethel Acres
- Town of Brooksville
- Town of Earlsboro

- **Town of Johnson**
- **Town of Macomb**
- **Town of Pink**
- **Town of St. Louis**
- **Town of Tribbey**
- **Town of Wanette**

As prescribed by the Legislature, the government of towns is that of a Board of Trustees, the simplest government type in Oklahoma. The Board is composed of three or five members, each representing a ward, and elected at large by the town. The Board exercises both executive and legislative functions. The Trustees elect from among themselves a President of the Board, who presides over the board and serves as Mayor of the town. The Mayor is the head of state for the town and, depending on the duties of the given Mayor, may serve as the head of government of the town. The judicial branch is known as Municipal Court, which is a court of no-record in Oklahoma's judicial system.

ALDERMANIC FORM OF GOVERNMENT

-  **Oklahoma Statutes Citationized**
-  **Title 11. Cities and Towns**
-  **Chapter 1 - Oklahoma Municipal Code**
-  **Article IX - Aldermanic Form of Government**
-  **Section 9-102 - Governing Body**

Cite as: 11 O.S. §, 9-102 et Seq.

The governing body of a statutory aldermanic city shall consist of the mayor, who is elected at large, and one or two councilmembers from each ward of the city. The governing body may submit to the voters the question of whether one or two councilmembers shall be elected from each ward. If approved, the change shall become effective for the next regular municipal election which shall be conducted in accordance with the provisions of Section 11-16-202 or 11-16-204 of this title, whichever is applicable.

ALDERMANIC FORM OF GOVERNMENTS IN POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

- **City of Maud**

The Aldermanic form is the first form of city government provided by the Legislature. Also known as weak mayor government, the governing body of an aldermanic city consists of the Mayor, who is elected at large, and two councilmembers from each ward of the city, forming the City Council. The Mayor serves as the presiding officer of the Council as well as the head of government of the city. The Mayor may vote on the Council but only when the Council is equally divided. The Mayor may sign or veto any city ordinance or resolution passed by the Council. Any ordinance or resolution vetoed by the Mayor may be overturned by a two-thirds vote of the Council.

STATUTORY COUNCIL-MANAGER

 **Oklahoma Statutes Citationized**

 **Title 11. Cities and Towns**

 **Chapter 1 - Oklahoma Municipal Code**

 **Article X - Council-Manager Form of City Government**

 **Section 10-101 - Statutory Council-Manager Form of Government**

Cite as: 11 O.S. §, 10-101 et Seq.

The form of government provided by Sections 11-10-101 through 11-10-121 of this title shall be known as the statutory council-manager form of city government. Cities governed under the statutory council-manager form shall have all the powers, functions, rights, privileges, franchises and immunities granted, or which may be granted, to cities. Such powers shall be exercised as provided by law applicable to cities under the statutory council-manager form, or if the manner is not thus prescribed, then in such manner as the council may prescribe.

STATUTORY COUNCIL-MANAGER GOVERNMENTS IN POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY

- **City of McLoud - Council-Manager**
- **City of Shawnee - Council-Manager**
- **City of Tecumseh - Council-Manager**

The council-manager form is the second form of city government provided by the Legislature. The governing body of a council-manager city is a city council composed of one councilmember from each ward of the city and one-at large councilmember. The council then elects from among its members a Mayor and a Vice-Mayor to serve concurrent two-year terms. The Mayor presides over all meetings of the council. Though recognized as head of state of the city, the Mayor has no regular administrative duties except for signing all conveyances and other written obligations of the city as the council requires. In the absence of the Mayor, the Vice-Mayor acts as the Mayor.

Aside from passing ordinances and raising city revenue, the council is responsible for appointing a city manager to serve as the head of government for the city. The city manager is appointed by a majority vote of the council to serve an indefinite term. However, the city manager may be suspended or removed at any time by a majority vote of the council. The city manager must be chosen solely on the basis of executive and administrative qualifications without regard to political affiliation. Neither the Mayor nor any members of the council may be appointed city manager during their term of office or within two years after they cease to hold such office.

The city manager is the chief executive officer of the administrative branch of the city government. He is responsible to the council for executing the laws and administering the government of the city. Most city officials are appointed and removed by the city manager without prior council approval. The city manager also supervises and controls all administrative departments, prepares an annual budget for the council to approve, and is to keep the council advised of the financial condition and future needs of the city.

For the most part, the city manager is mostly independent of the council in performing his administrative duties. Except for the purposes of inquiry, the council and its members can only deal with the administrative departments of the city solely through

the city manager. As such, the council may not direct or request the city manager to appoint or remove city officers or employees or give orders on ordinary administrative matters to any subordinate of the city manager either publicly or privately.

STATUTORY STRONG-MAYOR-COUNCIL FORM OF CITY GOVERNMENT

Oklahoma Statutes Citationized

Title 11. Cities and Towns

Chapter 1 - Oklahoma Municipal Code

Article XI - Statutory Strong-Mayor-Council Form of City Government

Section 11-106 - Mayor - Duties as Chief Executive Officer

Cite as: 11 O.S. §, 11-106 et Seq.

The mayor shall be chief executive officer and head of the administrative branch of the city government. He shall execute the laws and ordinances, and administer the government of the city. He shall be recognized as the head of the city government for all ceremonial purposes and by the Governor for purposes of military law. He shall:

1. Appoint, and when necessary for the good of the service, remove, demote, lay off, or suspend all heads or directors of administrative departments and all other administrative officers and employees of the city in the manner provided by law. The mayor or the council by ordinance may authorize the head of a department, office or agency to appoint and remove subordinates in such department, office or agency;
2. Supervise and control, directly or indirectly, all administrative departments, agencies, officers and employees;

3. Prepare a budget annually and submit it to the council and be responsible for the administration of the budget after it goes into effect; and recommend to the council any changes in the budget which he deems desirable;
4. Submit to the council a report after the end of the fiscal year on the finances and administrative activities of the city for the preceding year;
5. Keep the council advised of the financial condition and future needs of the city, and make such recommendations as he deems desirable;
6. Grant pardons for violations of city ordinances, including the remission of fines and costs, upon the recommendation of the municipal judge; and
7. Have such other powers, duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or by ordinance.

The strong mayor-council form, often shortened to simply *strong mayor*, is the third form of city government provided by the Legislature. The governing body of a strong mayor city consists of the Mayor, who is elected at large, and one councilmember from each ward of the city. The Mayor serves as an *ex officio* councilmember at large. The council then elects from among its members a Vice-Mayor to serve a two-year term. In the absence of the Mayor, the Vice-Mayor acts as the Mayor. When a vacancy occurs in the office of Vice-Mayor, the council shall elect from among its members another Vice-Mayor for the duration of the unexpired term. When vacancies occur in both the offices of Mayor and Vice-Mayor, the council will elect one of its members to act as Mayor.

The Mayor presides over all meetings of the council. As the councilmember at large, the Mayor has all the powers, rights, privileges, duties and responsibilities of any other councilmember, including the right to vote on all questions. However, if the council deems that the Mayor has a personal interest in any matter under consideration, the council may elect any councilmember to preside as temporary president of the council.

The Mayor serves as head of government for the city as the city's chief executive officer. He is responsible to the people of the city for executing the laws and for administering the

government of the city. The Mayor appoints and removes most city officials without prior council approval, supervises and controls (either directly or indirectly) all city departments, prepares the annual budget for council approval, keeps the council advised of the financial condition and future needs of the city, and may grant pardons for violations of city ordinances upon the recommendation of the municipal judge.

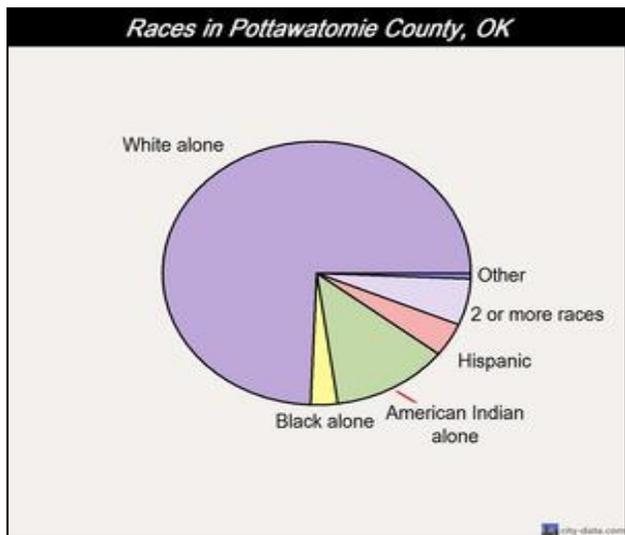
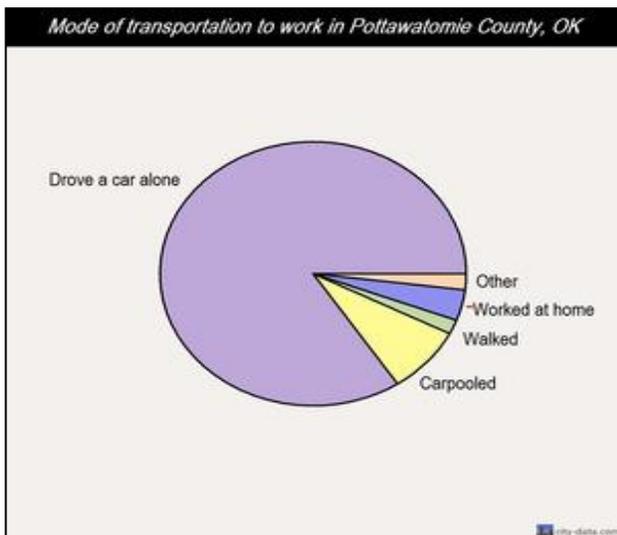
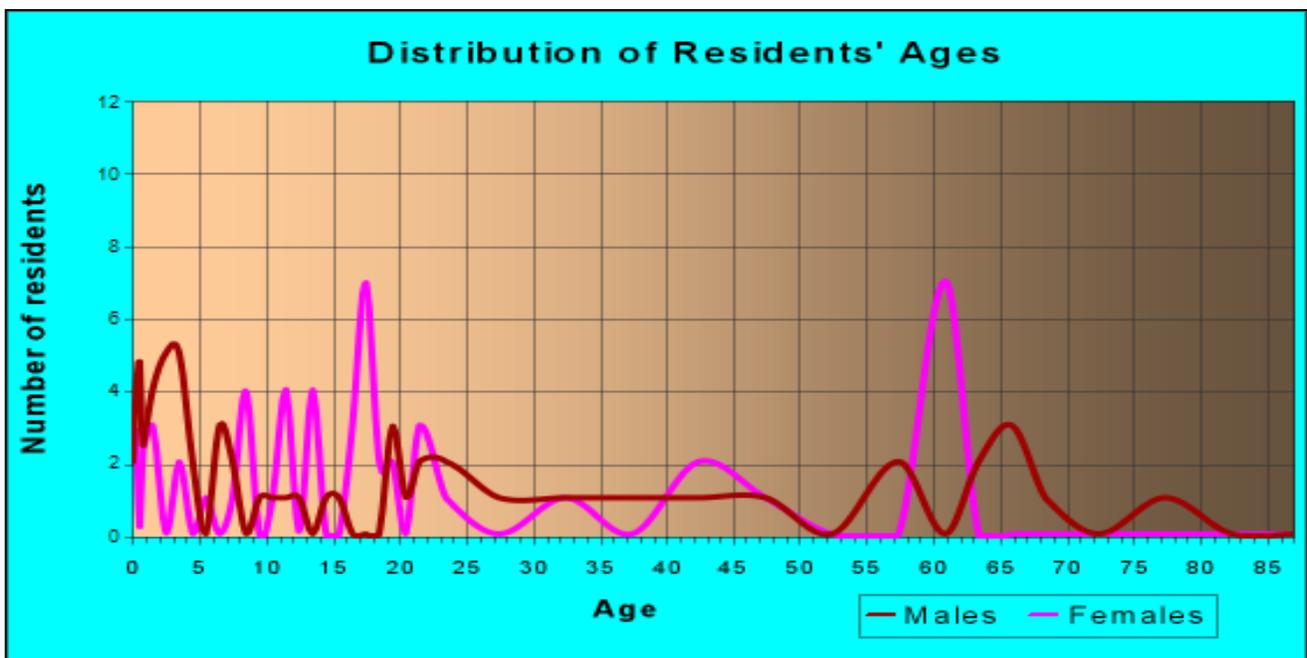
The Mayor may appoint himself (or the council may elect or appoint him) to other offices and positions in the city government, subject to such regulations as the council prescribes. However, he may not receive additional compensation for such service. The council may provide that the Mayor shall hold *ex officio* designated administrative offices subordinate to the Mayor as well as other designated compatible city offices.

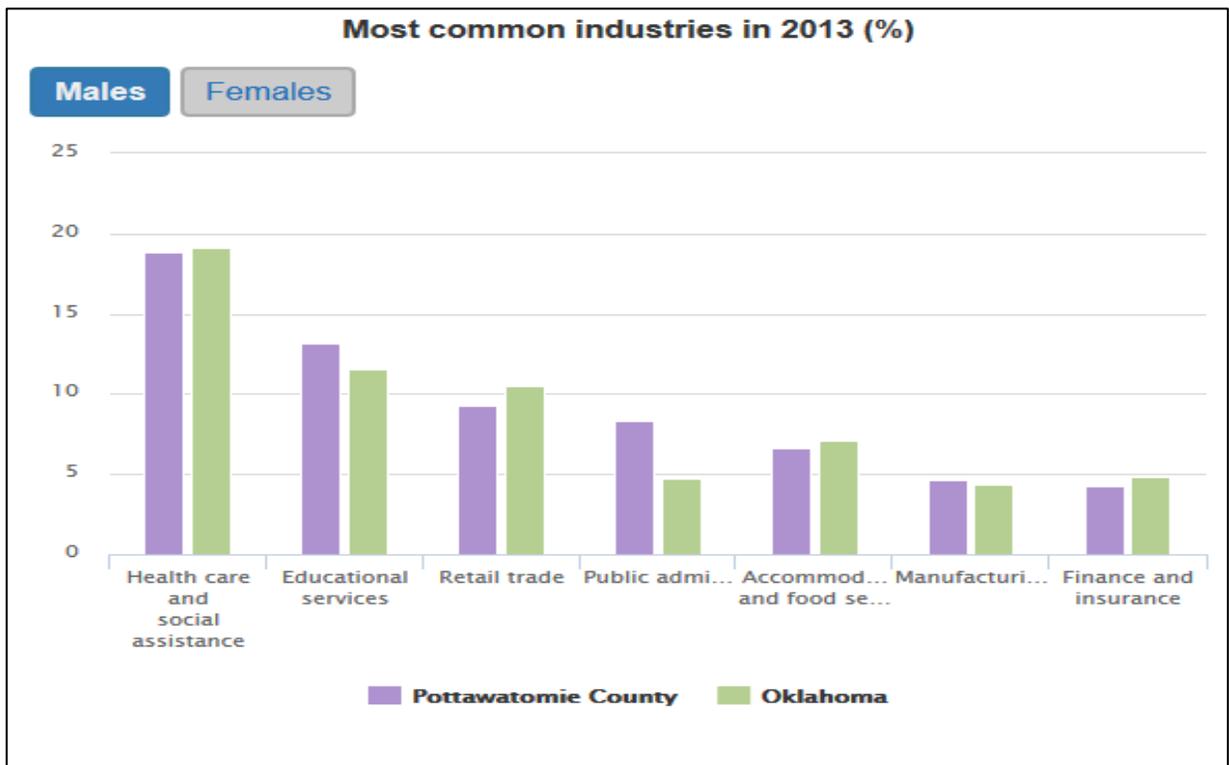
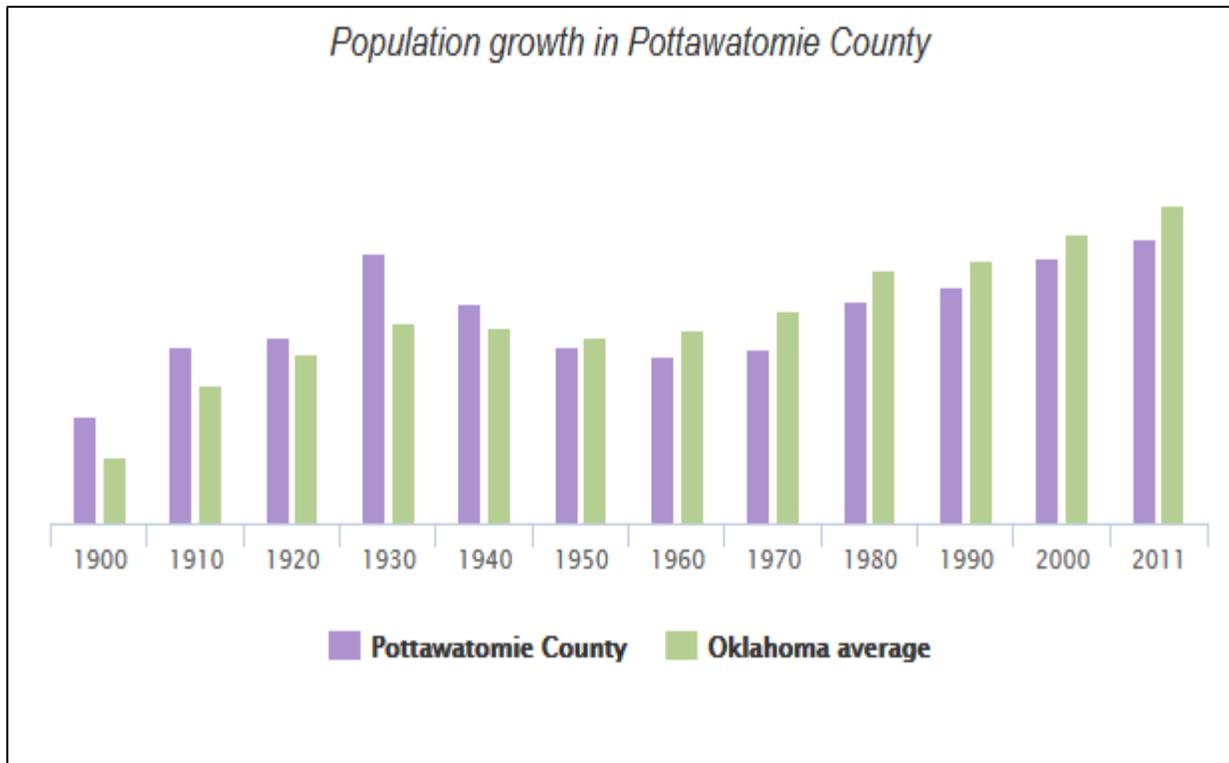
ECONOMICS AND TRANSPORTATION

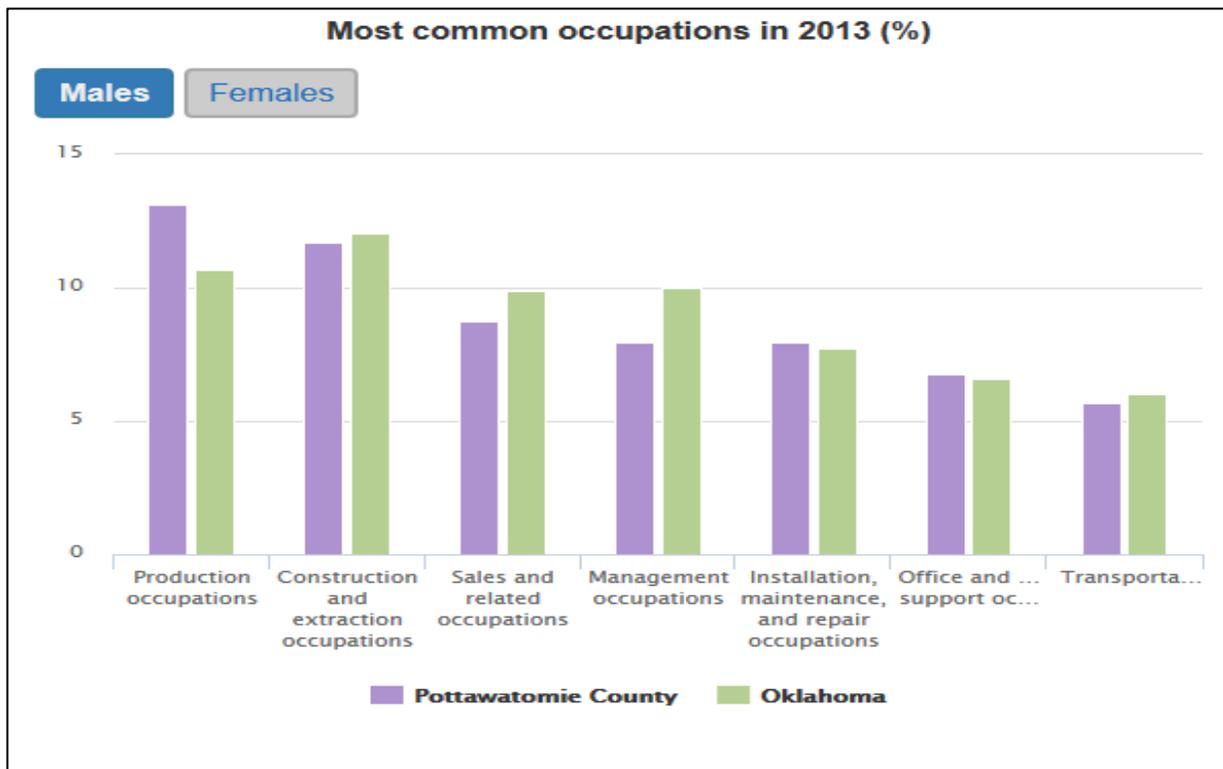
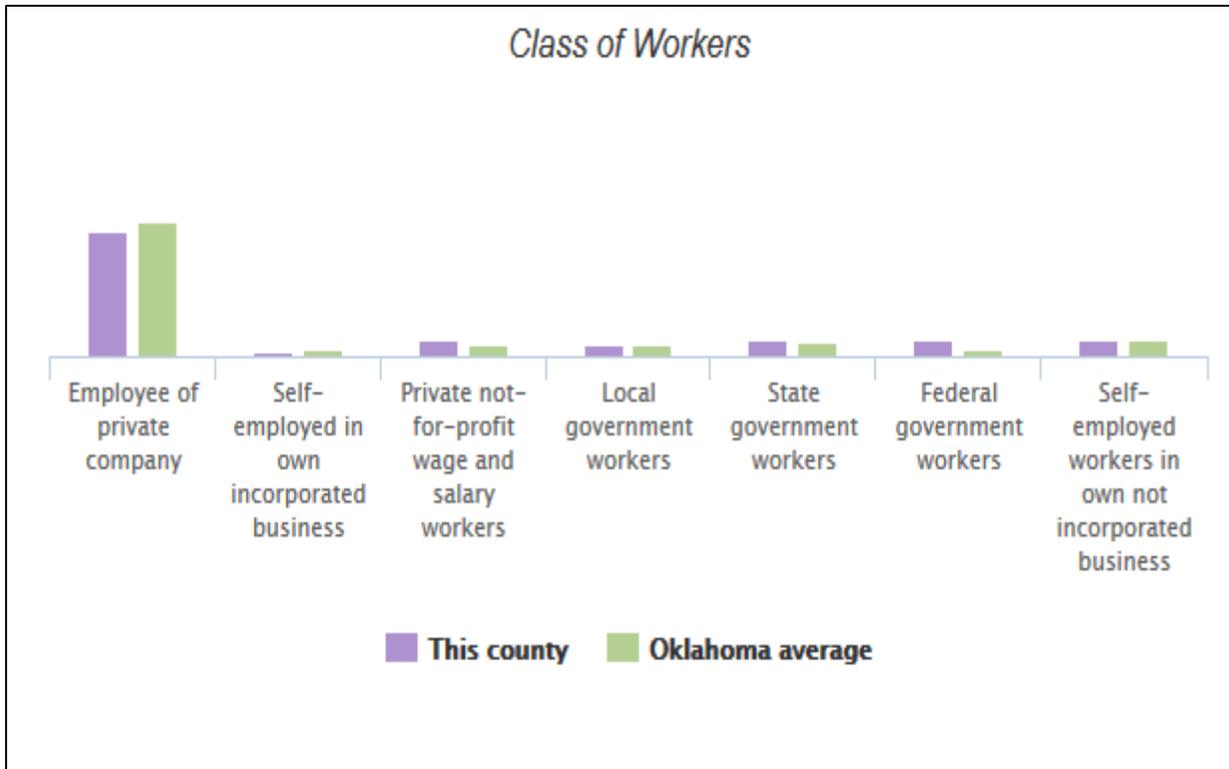
In addition to the railroad shops in the late 1800's, the county's economy rested on agriculture, oil, and liquor for the first fifty years of its existence. Cotton was the primary cash crop, followed by potatoes, truck gardens and orchards. By the 1930s, pecans and alfalfa were important crops as well. Before 1907 statehood and statewide prohibition, cities such as Keokuk and Corner did thriving business selling liquor to residents of the contiguous Indian Territory, which was dry. In the 1920s the county profited from the oil boom, as oil fields were developed in Earlsboro and St. Louis in 1926 and Asher in 1929.

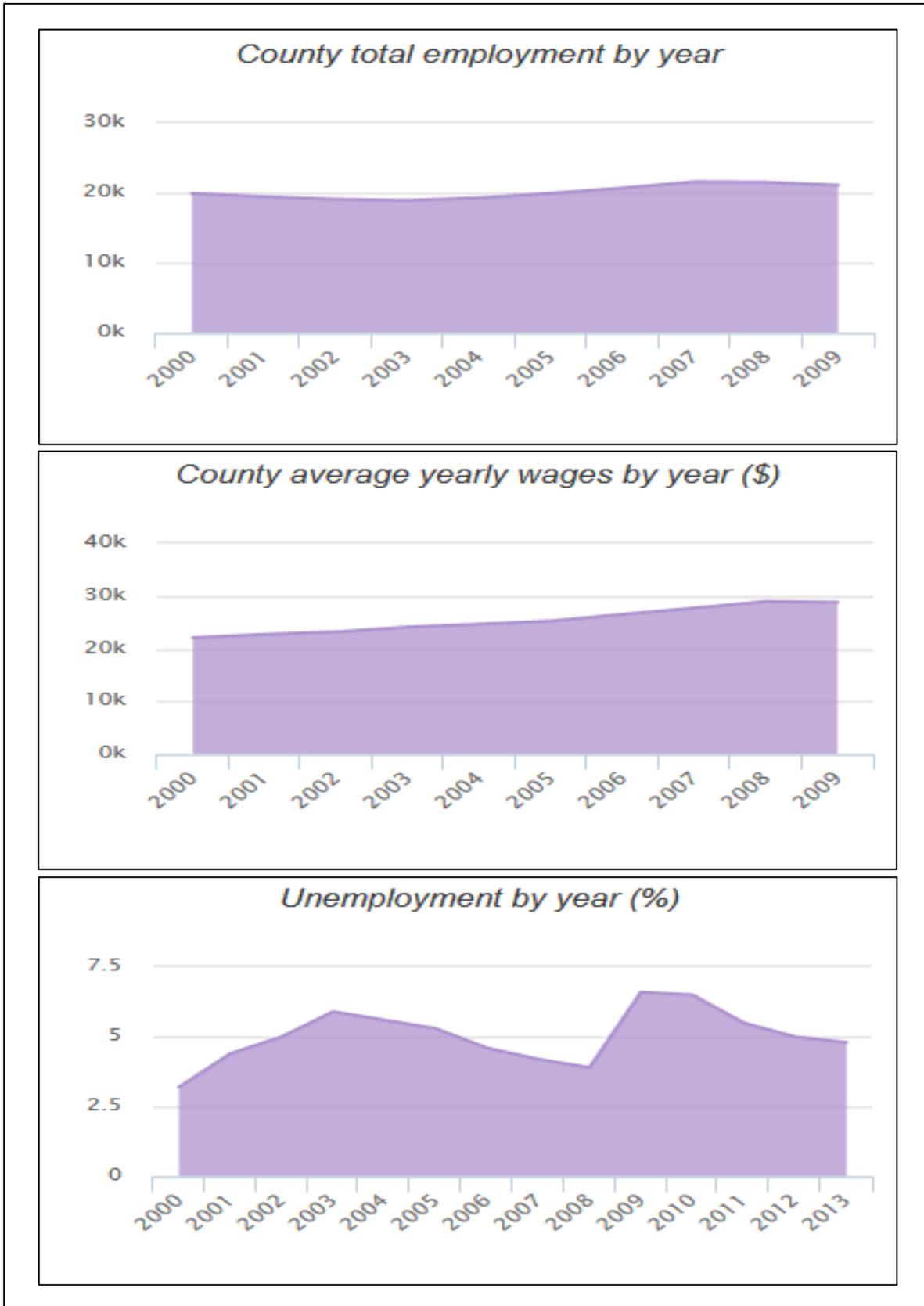
In 1997 Pottawatomie County ranked eleventh in the state in retail sales, with 276 establishments and \$397 million in sales. At the turn of the twenty-first century the top three areas of employment were manufacturing with 4,257 employees and an annual payroll of \$131 million, retail sales with 3,129 employees and \$46 million annual payroll, and health care and social assistance with 2,680 employees and \$60 million annual payroll. Although a number of manufacturing companies had located in Shawnee and Tecumseh, agriculture remained important to the county's economy. At the turn of the twenty-first century Pottawatomie County had 48,500 acres planted in hay, 20,000 acres in wheat, and 4,500 acres in soybeans. The county had 1,448 farms, averaging 232.37 acres.

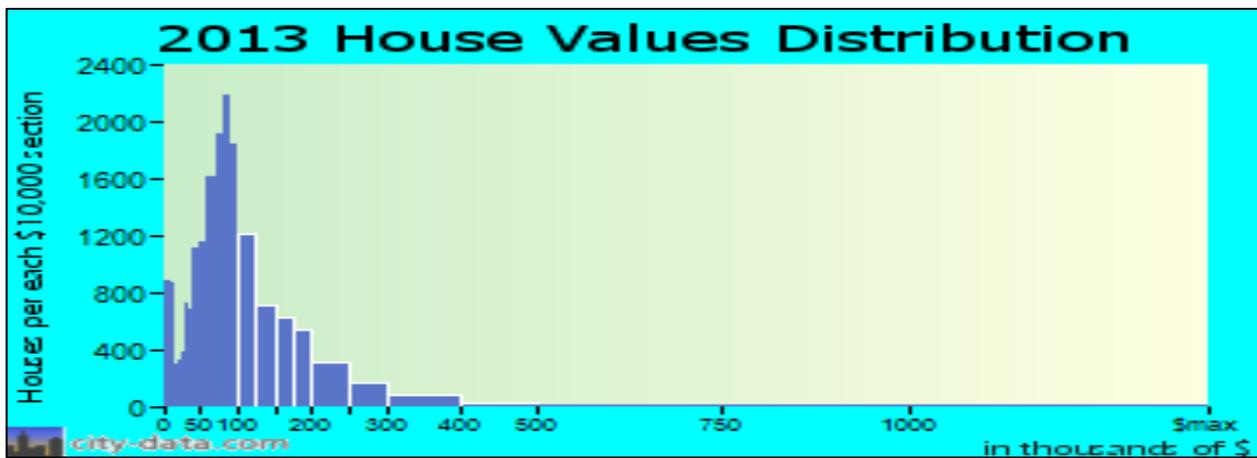
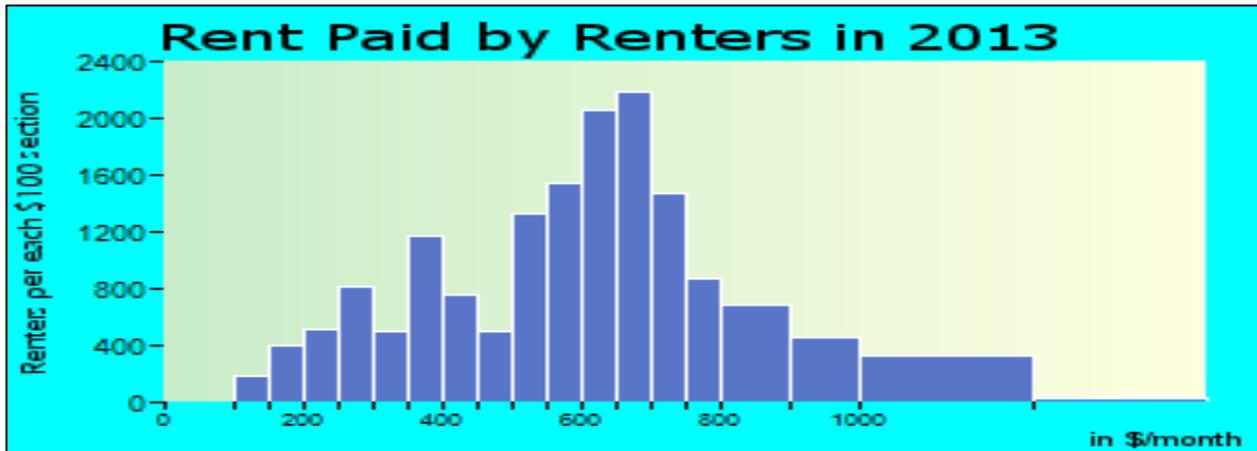
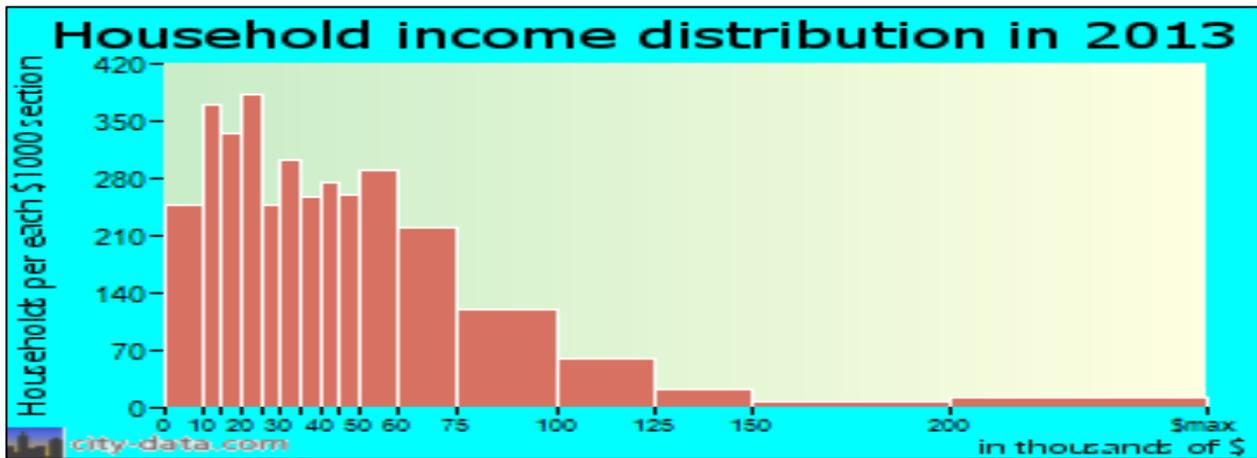
Motorists and commercial transports have use of Interstate-40; U.S. Highway 177 and State Highways 3; 9; 39; 102; 270 and 277 to get to their destinations, to receive commerce from all over the nation and to travel state and nationwide. The county also maintains numerous miles of roads throughout the county. Many of the county’s towns serve as “bedroom” communities for the Oklahoma City metropolitan area.

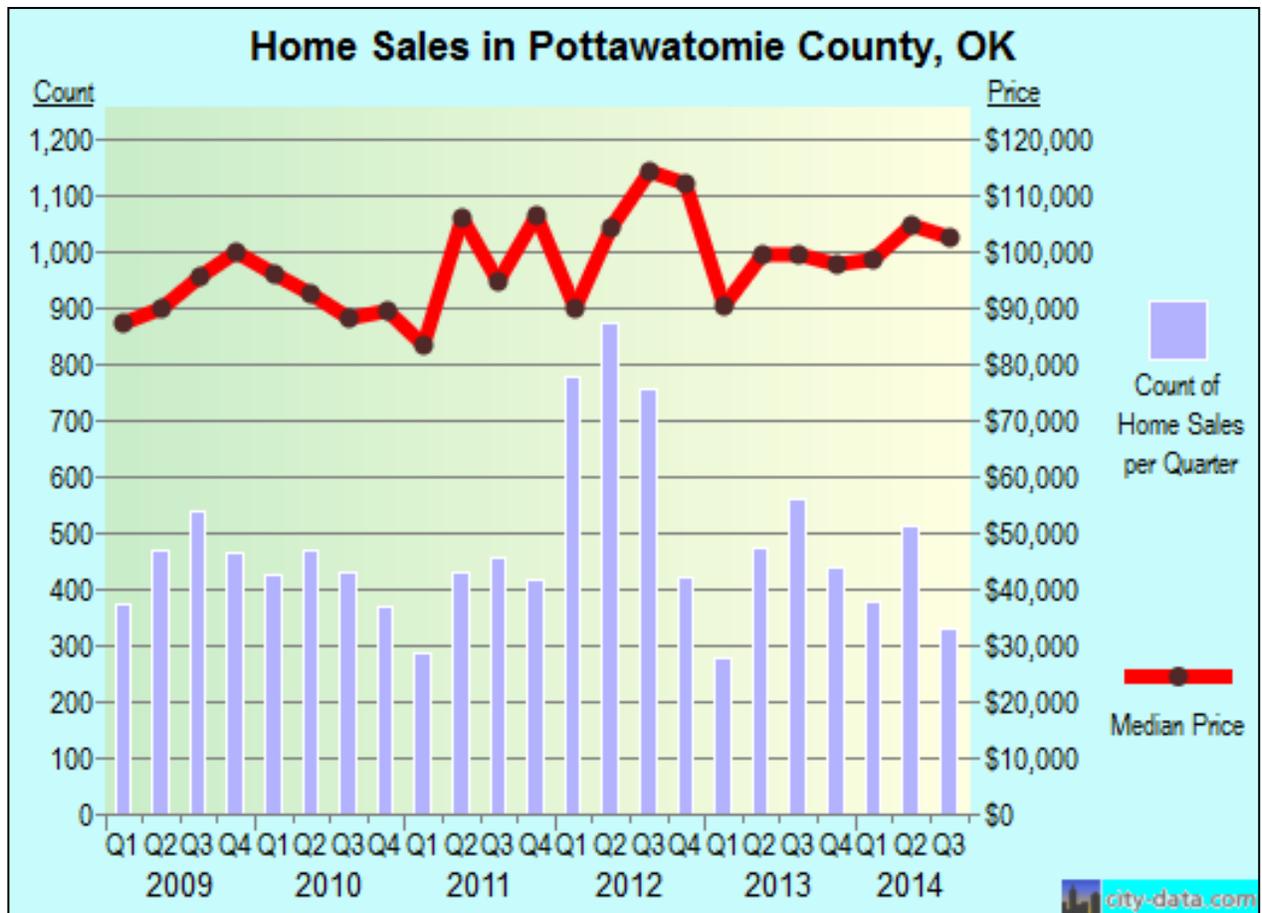
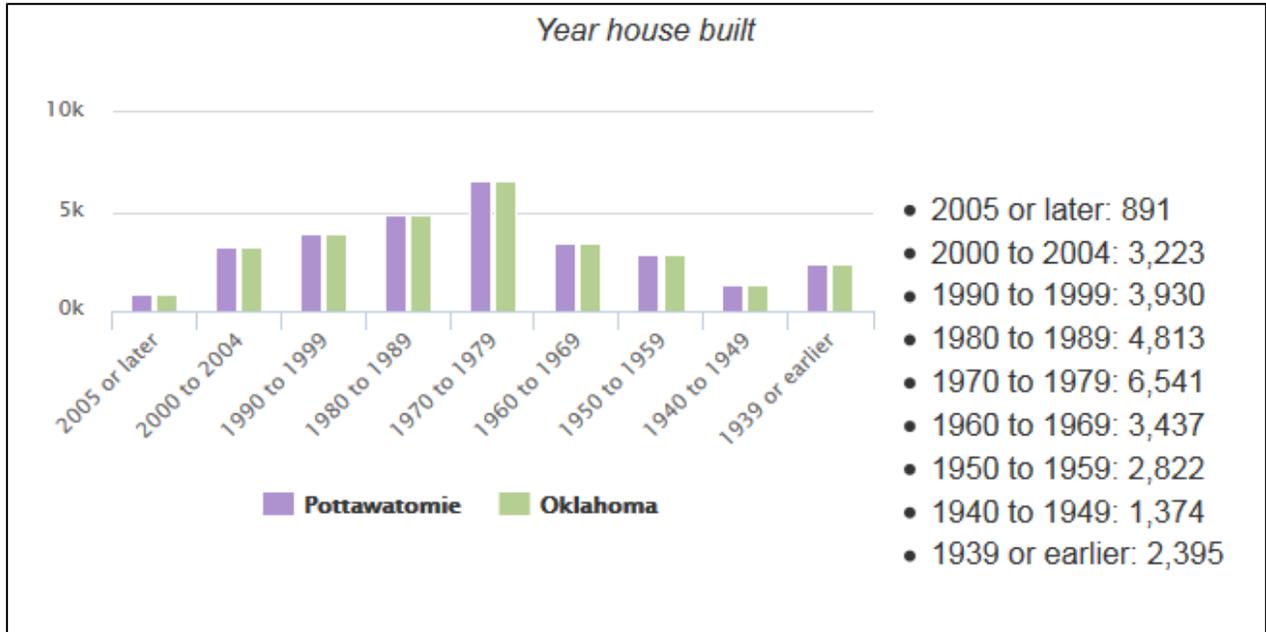












**Table 1-2 MAJOR EMPLOYERS – POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY
50+ Employees**

Employer	Type Business	Approx.	Jurisdiction
Tinker Air Force Base*	Military	1354	Midwest City*
Citizen Pottawatomie Nation	Tribal	2200	Shawnee/ Pottawatomie County
Wolverine Tube	Commodity & Technical Tube	600	Shawnee
St. Anthony Shawnee Hospital	Medical	497	Shawnee
Shawnee Public Schools	Education	490	Shawnee
Tecumseh Public Schools	Education	447	Tecumseh
Georg Fischer	Polypropylene fittings/Infrastructure assemblies	413	Shawnee
Walmart	Merchandiser	400	Shawnee
Oklahoma Baptist University	Education	352	Shawnee
Eaton	Hydraulic Motor Production	N/A	Shawnee

**Table 1-2 MAJOR EMPLOYERS – POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY
50+ Employees**

Employer	Type Business	Approx.	Jurisdiction
Jindal Films	Thin film production	352	Shawnee
Absentee Shawnee Tribe	Tribal	326	Pottawatomie County
City of Shawnee	Municipal government	264	Shawnee
TDK Ferrites	Ferrous Metal Magnets	250	Shawnee
Shawnee Milling	Grain milling/food production	221	Shawnee
Finley & Cook	CPA's & Accounting	188	Shawnee
GE Oil & Gas	Pressure Relief Valves & Sytems	178	Shawnee
St. Gregory's University	Education	170	Shawnee
McLoud Public Schools	Education	158	Shawnee
GordonCooper Technology Center	Education	150	Shawnee

Table 1-2 MAJOR EMPLOYERS – POTTAWATOMIE COUNTY 50+ Employees			
Employer	Type Business	Approx.	Jurisdiction
ALKO Kober	Heavy Duty Trailer Axle Fabrication	136	Shawnee
Trican Well Services	Oil Field Services	125	Shawnee
Unit Liner/Pond Pro	Oil Field Environmental Products/Landscaping Services	84	Shawnee
Oil Castle Building Envelope	Glazing Units/Glazing Frames & Doors	70	Shawnee
Dale Public Schools	Education	63	Dale

*** - although not located physically in Pottawatomie County, a large number of citizens in the county work at this location which affects the economy of the county.**

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## SOURCES

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*Oklahoma Supreme Court Document Index*

*[oscn.net/applications/oscn/Index.asp?ftdb=STOKST11&level=1](http://oscn.net/applications/oscn/Index.asp?ftdb=STOKST11&level=1)*

*Oklahoma Supreme Court Document Index*

*[oscn.net/applications/oscn/Index.asp?ftdb=STOKST11&level=1](http://oscn.net/applications/oscn/Index.asp?ftdb=STOKST11&level=1)*

*City-Data.com*

*[http://www.city-data.com/county/Pottawatomie\\_County-OK.html](http://www.city-data.com/county/Pottawatomie_County-OK.html)*

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